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# AGAWAM

## ADVERTISER NEWS

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## Data cap delay not deterring new task force

By Shelby Macri  
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AGAWAM – The mayor is not reserving course on a new task force despite Comcast's decision to delay the imposition of a data cap for Internet users.

Last week Mayor William Sapelli announced that he was creating a Municipal Fiber Task Force to look at the internet and broadband within town.

This subject came up due to Comcast adding a data cap for its customers, where those who ex-

ceed the data limit will be charged with additional fees. Comcast originally announced that the data cap would go into effect this year, but they recently announced that the data cap won't be implemented until 2022.

Though Comcast has changed the date the data cap will be enforced, Sapelli has not changed his mind on the task force.

"They're just delaying the inevitable, it's like kicking a can down the street you're going to meet back up with it," Sapelli said. "I think we have a solid group and

we have to take a look at our options now."

The task force hasn't met yet but there is a planned first meeting for Wednesday, Feb. 24 so the group can begin discussing this project.

Sapelli said that he collaborated with a few people from his office to figure out who to include in the task force, he knew that Media Manager Les Tingley was an obvious choice; along with IT Director Jeff Hulbert. He wanted a diverse group of people from town rather than just department heads so

he included two residents, City Councilor Rosemary Sandlin, and Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Robin Wozniak to get an accurate input from the public and those who represent it.

When the data cap was announced, Comcast claimed only a small number of residents would hit or exceed it, but Sapelli feels with internet becoming more of a primary need people shouldn't be limited in this way.

"We're looking at all our options, we don't own the poles in town so that'd be a cost, and there

are other options to consider. I'm not saying we're absolutely going to change it but we're looking at everything," Sapelli said. "I know that there may be costs associated with what we choose but I also know that the residents aren't afraid to pay a little more to get sufficient internet."

Many have called to ask questions on the options for internet in town and how Agawam will move forward, Sapelli said that the task force will be contemplating all these questions and more

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## Swimming for victory



Sarah Kriebel swims her way across the pool at Agawam Junior High School at a recent virtual swimming meet. More photos of the girls swimming team are on page 8. PHOTO BY DAVID HENRY [WWW.SWEETDOGPOTOS.COM](http://WWW.SWEETDOGPOTOS.COM)

## Vaccines not coming local as town exits red category

By Gregory A. Scibelli  
[gscibelli@turley.com](mailto:gscibelli@turley.com)

AGAWAM – The Town of Agawam has been informed no more first doses of the COVID-19 vaccine will be provided to the town of local vaccination clinics. All doses of the vaccines are currently being re-routed to mass vaccination sites.

The news of this comes in the heels of Agawam leaving the red, high-risk for COVID-19 spread category it has been in for more than two months. Agawam's number of positive tests has dropped below five percent, and the town is now in the yellow category for moderate risk of COVID-19 spread.

Agawam is one of many communities to see rates of positive COVID tests come down. For the entire pandemic, there have been 2,237 cases of COVID-19 reported by the town. More than 70 percent of those cases have come since the second spike of cases that started in October 2020. Cases have been steadily dropping since the vaccines began being administered.

There were more than 100 active cases of the virus just a few weeks ago, and that number is now down to 58. There are only 12 children in the community currently suffering from the virus. Several Agawam nursing homes have already had vaccine clinics for staff and residents, and there are currently no active cases of the virus.

While the news continues to be positive for cases going down, there is frustration on making ap-

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## Verizon Wireless re-files special permit for cell tower

By Shelby Macri  
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AGAWAM – Verizon Wireless has withdrawn its request, without prejudice, for a special permit and variance, meaning that they can resubmit a plan for the alternative site. Verizon decided to move the cell tower plan to the alternative site one as the ZBA suggested, and have recently filed for a special permit on the new site.

"Alternative site one is, from a bird's eye-view, to the left of the

clubhouse; in the woods near one of the golf holes," ZBA Chairperson Doreen Prouty said. "We did look at all the alternative sites while the first case was open but we thought site one was a better fit, and Verizon choose that site as well. We didn't tell them they had to choose alternative site one, we just told them that it was our suggested site and they choose it as well."

Last year Verizon Wireless proposed building a cell tower in town at the Agawam Munic-

ipal Golf Course, the tower was planned to be next to the parking lot and would need a special permit and variance dues to the proximity go the golf clubhouse.

The abutters to the golf course had concerns about the closeness of the cell tower to their homes, some being the radiation risk and the high winds that can be experienced near the Clubhouse and the top of the course. Abutters were worried that if a strong enough wind came by it could knock down the tower, causing damage

to the golf course and perhaps to surrounding homes. They were also concerned about the site of the tower as it's directly behind some houses, and their view is obstructed by the tower.

The abutters proposed alternative sites for the Zoning Board of Appeals and Verizon Wireless to consider moving the tower too. These sites were on different areas of land on the golf course where the elevation isn't as high and the tower wouldn't need a variance to

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# Velis named Chair of Veterans and Federal Affairs Committee

BOSTON - On Friday the Massachusetts State Senate announced new committee assignments for the 2021-2022 legislative session. Senator John Velis (D-Westfield) was named the Senate chair of the Joint Committee on Veterans and Federal Affairs. When asked about his new position, Senator Velis stressed the importance of delivering for those who have served our country.

“Those in our Armed Forces are selfless and courageous individuals who lay their lives on the line in defense of our great country. In turn, we need to do everything we can to make sure we are properly assisting and caring for those who serve and have served,” said Senator Velis, who is a Veteran and Major in the U.S. Army Reserves himself. “Our Veterans have their own unique

needs and skillsets, and I am incredibly excited to chair the committee directly tasked with all aspects of Veteran affairs.”

Senator Velis will chair the Joint Committee alongside State Representative Paul McMurtry (D-Dedham). Senator Velis noted that he has filed several pieces of Veteran Affairs legislation on his own already and that he hopes to see several major Veterans Bills be signed by Governor Baker this session.

In addition to his chairmanship, Senator Velis was also named Vice-Chair of the Joint Committee on Mental Health, Substance Use and Recovery, and Vice-Chair of the Joint Committee on Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities.

“Both of these committees will be working

on issues very near and dear to my heart,” said Senator Velis. “As someone who went through the special education system in Westfield, and as someone who has had their own struggles in recovery, I look forward to lending my personal insight to these committees as we work on legislation that will benefit residents across the Commonwealth.”

Senator Velis will also be sitting on five other joint committees in the 2021-2022 legislative session, including the Joint Committee on the Judiciary, the Joint Committee on Municipalities and Regional Government, the Joint Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security, the Joint Committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight, and the Joint Committee on Tourism, Arts and Cultural Development.

## TASK FORCE ■ from page 1

to find the best solution for the town. There are residents calling and emailing about their concerns, questions, and general confusion with the data limit; and while it was almost daily a few weeks ago the calls have since calmed down after the task force announcement.

There have been less calls and emails with concerns, and more people commenting on social media with their thanks to Sapelli and the task force. Sapelli said that people are happy with the decision to make a task force and look at all internet options before the data cap is instilled, the residents are grateful that Sapelli is looking into more options.

As a resident, the data cap does not affect Sapelli very much, as he is not as tech savvy as others and doesn't use the internet besides the basics. “It doesn't impact me and I don't use it much, but as Mayor, and the person the people elected to speak for them, I'm going to look into every option,” Sapelli said. “I want people to know we're looking into it, and I know this couldn't have come at a worst time.”

Other towns have been very vocal about their opposition of the data cap being imposed by Comcast. Most communities in the area use Comcast for cable with many utilizing it for Internet.

## VACCINES ■ from page 1

pointments for vaccination. Agawam learned last Thursday that residents who currently qualify to be vaccinated must make an appointment with a state-sponsored clinic.

“The Agawam Health Department has been notified by the Governor Baker's Office beginning March 1, 2021 all municipalities will no longer receive vaccine to support further first dose clinics,” the town's website states.” Municipalities will only be provided second doses to complete the series that have already been given. Our final first dose clinic will be held on March 3, 2021 for Agawam Seniors 75 years of age and older.”

Anyone wishing to be vaccinated should call 211 for assistance in registering for a state sponsored clinic, or go to <https://vaxfinder.mass.gov>

## CELL TOWER ■ from page 1

be built. The members of the ZBA went to the golf course to look at the alternative sites during a balloon test by Verizon, after reviewing the sites the ZBA suggested that alternative site one was a better location for the tower.

As the site is in the woods the Conservation Committee will have a say in the final decision; although Prouty doesn't know if Verizon did a conservation study she assumes that they would have discussed the location with the appropriate parties before submitting their new plans. There is currently a public hearing for the new site scheduled on March 22 at 6 p.m. via Zoom, where Verizon Wireless will present their new plan and the public can offer their comments.

# Turley Publications wants to hear from you

REGION – Everyone uses different tools to get the news.

At Turley Publications, we strive to reach all our readers. In that effort, we have created an online survey to learn about how our readers get their news. Please complete this survey to educate us on how we can best reach you, the reader. The 10-question survey takes about two minutes to complete online. The survey can be found at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/DBSJ69F>. Thank you.

# Apply for garden club scholarship

AGAWAM – Applications are now available for the Agawam Garden Club scholarship. To qualify for the scholarship students must be a graduating senior of Agawam High School or a college student who graduated from Agawam High School. Applicants must be majoring in or planning on majoring in one of the following: botany, environmental engineering, environmental science, earths systems, forest management, natural resources, plant soil and insect science, sustainable agriculture, sustainable horticulture or food and farming, turf grass science and management, landscape design and management technology, clean energy, technology studies: wastewater or other environmental related studies. Applications are available through Agawam High School or can be found on our website at [agawamgardenclub.com](http://agawamgardenclub.com).

# Consignment shop holding annual bag sale

AGAWAM – The Trading Post Consignment Shop located at the First Baptist Church of Agawam, 760 Main Street, Agawam will be holding its popular \$5 bag sale starting Wednesday, Feb. 24 through Wednesday March 10, including Saturday, Mar. 6. This sale is held a few times each year to help clear out inventory of seasonal clothing to make room for the next seasons items.

Just buy a bag for \$5 and fill it with as many designated adult and children sized winter clothing articles as you can. Some handbags, hats, scarves and shoes will also be part of the stuff a bag sale. In addition, many other things will be half price. This will include books, CD's/DVD's/VHS, jewelry and select household/gift pieces.

For customers who wish to either donate or offer clothing for consignment, we are now accepting spring and summer only.

Our hours of operation are Wednesdays, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and the first Saturday of each month, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. We hope to see you.

For future news and information, please visit our The Trading Post Consignment Shop Facebook page or follow us on Instagram @fbctradingpost.

# Participate in virtual photograph show

AGAWAM – Please join us online to participate in our first virtual photography show. Since we couldn't do our usual exhibit at the library, we moved it online so we can continue to share outstanding photography with our community, and to support our beloved library. Officially, this is our First Open Virtual Photography Show. Categories include creative, nature, pictorial, and photojournalism, and the photography never disappoints.

Awards totaling \$1,340 have been determined by our esteemed judges Amy S. Dane and Barbara Krawczyk, both highly respected photographers. Their comments are available online, along with the photographs, so the Show can continue to be an educational experience for participants.

The show can be accessed at [www.agawamlibrary.org/about-2/friends/#FriendsPhotoShowFirstVirtual](http://www.agawamlibrary.org/about-2/friends/#FriendsPhotoShowFirstVirtual). For further information please contact Bob Kadis at [r.kadis@comcast.net](mailto:r.kadis@comcast.net) or at 413-789-4814.

# ARREST LOG

The Agawam Police Department responded to 883 calls for service from Feb. 15 to Feb. 21 and recorded the following arrests. No arrests in the public log have been omitted. All suspects are innocent until proven guilty.

There was one arrest reported during the past week, but information was too redacted by the Agawam Police Department to publish.

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# St. Patrick's Road Race going virtual for 2021

HOLYOKE – If you haven't heard by now, for the second year in a row, the Holyoke St. Patrick's Day Road Race has been cancelled due to concerns surrounding COVID-19.

We certainly didn't come to this decision lightly but in the interest of our participants, volunteers, and our community we have cancelled this year's in person race. We've been looking forward to the race since the cancellation last year, never thinking this pandemic would last this long.

We understand that this isn't a replacement for the real thing but running with 7,000 others right now is not possible, but we will try to make it just as fun! This March we will hold the second Virtual Holyoke St. Patrick's Day Road Race. Create your own 10K route (or use ours!) and compete against other runners. We will provide a familiar looking t-shirt, printable custom bib number, free beer, and local giveaways.

Go to <http://racewire.com/register.php?id=11824> for all the details to register.

Lastly, thank you for your patience and support over the last year. The St. Patrick's Committee of Holyoke works tirelessly year-round to make this "Homecoming Weekend" the best one of the year. We look forward to the opportunity to host you on the streets of Holyoke for the 45th running of the Holyoke St. Patrick's Road Race in March 2022.



This is the second straight year the race has been postponed. SUBMITTED PHOTO

## Free introduction to manufacturing offered

*Unemployed due to COVID-19 targeted*

By Eileen Kennedy  
Staff writer

COVID-19 has torn through the economy as companies had to dial back their services or products in the wake of the pandemic, change their business models and furlough or lay off employees left and right to make it. Others just shut down entirely. While some people have been able to find work, there are plenty of workers who haven't been able to, and the state wants to help.

For those who have lost their jobs due to COVID-19 and remain unemployed, the MassHire Career Centers in Holyoke and Springfield are offering free virtual manufacturing training classes. They will help participants learn about career manufacturing, basic manufacturing standards, manufacturing processes, basic blueprint reading, quality control processes and tips on teamwork. The career centers used to be known as the state's One-Stop Shop for employment needs for those looking for work and employers.

Participants must have a high school diploma, Internet connectivity with streaming capability, be unemployed due to COVID-19 and have a device such as a laptop, desktop computer or tablet to access the internet. It is also compatible with cell phones. Instructor coaching is also provided.

"The last two governors have been very invested in what they can do to maintain or grow manufacturing as

an industry in general," said MassHire Career Center Holyoke President and CEO David Gadaire said.

With COVID-19 translating to job losses for many, it was decided to target those who have lost their jobs as layoffs and business closures began last March as restaurants, gyms and other businesses were temporarily closed and then able to start up in reduced capacities, he said.

"We think many people wrongly have this picture of what manufacturing is all about, with idea that it's dirty," he said. "But many manufacturers have pristine processes, for which mathematics is needed and their manufacturing is really a science."

He said starting wages are good and it's possible to make a sustainable wage and move through company ranks to get ahead.

"The classes are a guide, to counsel them as to what to expect in manufacturing, the kind of math needed and so they candidly will know what's going on," he said. "It's also designed to get people off unemployment and help them move into what could be a good career."

The classes are self-paced and offer tips on who work as a team member, how to address concerns that come up on the manufacturing floor and problem resolution, Gadaire said.

Businessman Joseph Peters, a member of MassHire Hampden County Workforce Board, has been in manufacturing for decades, and decided to test drive the classes to be sure potential students would get useful information about manufacturing if they took them.

"It provides exposure to manufacturing machines, safety protocols among other things," said Peters, who owned Universal Plastics in Holyoke up to a few years ago, and who remains active in the company. "I think someone who has gone through this would be looked at differently than someone who hadn't taken it when it comes to the hiring process. I would be much more interested in someone who had taken this course. Our company is looking for people right now and this would give someone a lot of advantages."

Peters said these days many young students are not exposed to manufacturing at all and are unfamiliar with it either generally or specifically. That exposure differs from when he was young, when many people knew people in manufacturing even if their immediate family wasn't involved, he said. The classes provide that exposure if they've never had it in school or in the workforce," he said.

"He's lived manufacturing and breathed it his whole life, and in my mind that makes his opinion about it very credible," said Gadaire of Peters' opinion that it gives potential job seekers a way into manufacturing.

For more information or to register for the classes contact Kate Smith at MassHire Holyoke at 413-322-7162 or [Ksmith@massshireholyokey.org](mailto:Ksmith@massshireholyokey.org) or Yvette Jackson at MassHire Springfield at 413-858-2827 or [yjackson@massshirespringfield.org](mailto:yjackson@massshirespringfield.org).

The funding for the classes was provided by the state Office of Housing and Economic Development



### ◆ La Cucina di Hampden House

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## STCC to offer certified auto damage appraiser course in March

SPRINGFIELD – Springfield Technical Community College will offer a certified auto damage appraiser course for insurance claims professionals and auto body technicians beginning March 1.

The 60-hour course is the first step to becoming an auto damage appraiser in Massachusetts. The training through STCC's Workforce Development Center prepares students for the exam to be a licensed appraiser.

Classes will be held Mondays and Wednesdays, 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., through May 10. Classes will be held Mondays and Wednesdays, 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., through May 10. Students will meet in the Scibelli Hall (Building

2) theater and must follow the college's COVID-19 protocol. The auditorium seats 200, but the class size will be limited to no more than 20 individuals. Masks are required.

Approved by the Massachusetts Division of Insurance, the training offers an in-depth discussion of insurance regulations, policy arbitration and work completion forms.

The instructor has 20 years' experience in the collision repair and insurance industry in Massachusetts and Connecticut and holds auto appraiser licenses in both states.

The course will include the use of flat rate manual, collision diagnosis, cost estimation and preparation of

written estimates.

To become licensed, students will need to complete the course and a three-month apprenticeship with a licensed Massachusetts automobile appraiser. In addition, they will need to obtain a certified letter verifying the apprenticeship. The apprenticeship must be completed prior to applying to take the Massachusetts Automobile Damage Appraisers License Examination.

For more information and to enroll online, visit [www.stcc.edu/wdc](http://www.stcc.edu/wdc) and then click on "auto damage appraiser." To contact the Workforce Development Center Office, call (413) 755-4225.



# Opinion

## OUR VIEW

### In My Backyard

By Ellenor Downer

I received an email from a Brookfield resident, who had a Coopers hawk perched in a tree in his yard for about two hours on Feb. 3. He also include a photo of the hawk.

The Coopers hawk is about 16 inches long and has a long narrow tail. The adult is blue gray above, light below with reddish-brown barring. Its crown is darker than the back. The immature is dark brown above, light below with thin brown streaks and keeps the immature plumage for a year.

The female lays three to six pale blue green eggs with dark spots in a platform nest of sticks and lined with bark placed in a tree. During breeding season, it has regular feeding routes where it hunts for common medium sized birds like mourning doves, blue jays and starlings. In winter, it may show up at bird feeders.

#### Starlings and suet cakes

I also received an email from a woman, who had starlings come to her homemade suet. Here is the recipe for the suet.

#### HOMEMADE WILD BIRD SUET

prep time 10 minutes and cook time 15 minutes

**Ingredients**  
 ½ cup rendered fat or lard  
 2 cup old-fashioned oats (not instant)  
 2 cups chunky peanut butter  
 2 cups beef broth  
 ½ cup sugar  
 ½ cup raisins/dried cranberries or chopped nuts (optional)  
 1 ½ cup wild bird seed  
 Squares of wax paper (to put between sliced cakes for storage)

#### Instructions

In a large pot, combine lard, oatmeal, peanut butter, broth and sugar stirring frequently.

Heat to a boil, then reduce to a simmer.

Simmer for 20 minutes or so or until mixture is the consistency of thick oatmeal.

Stir in raisins and /or nuts.

Remove from heat and stir in bird seed.

Pour into mold and put in freezer, cooling until hardened.

Once hardened, remove suet "brick" from freezer and allow it to soften slightly to ease in cutting.

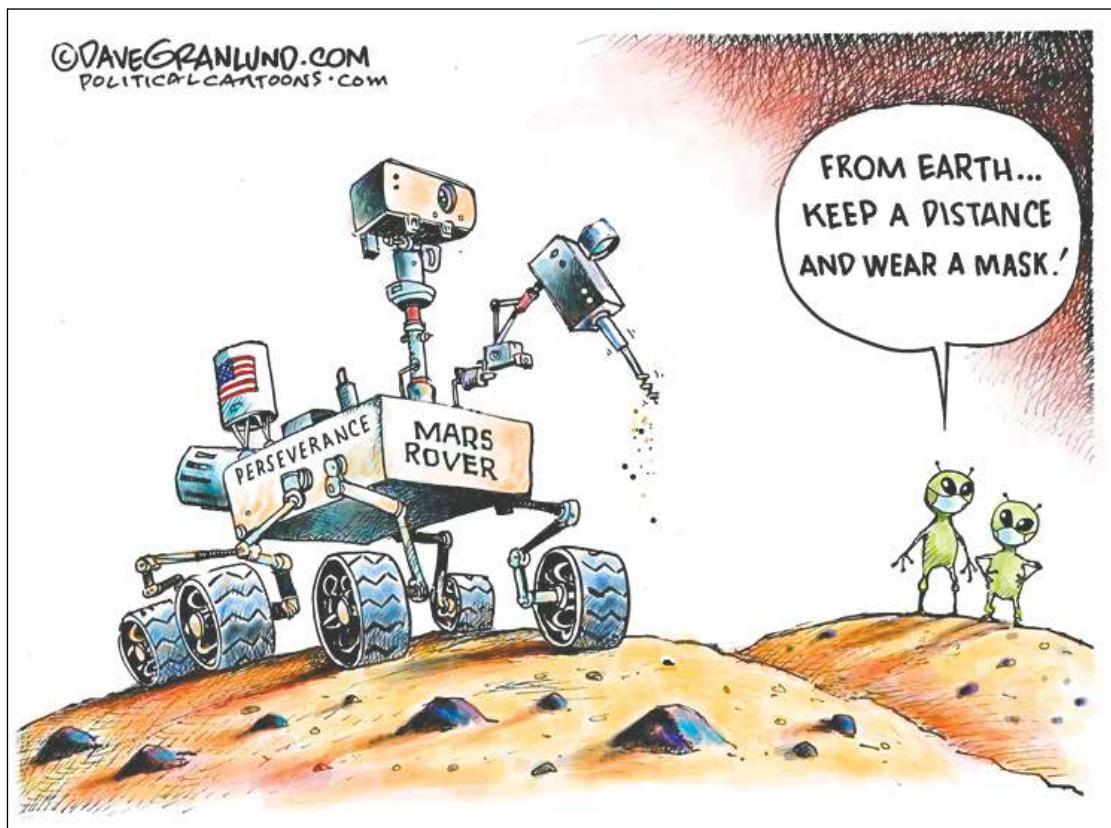
Store thawed cakes in refrigerator for up to one week or refreeze with a sheet of wax paper in between.

Note: This recipe is not practical for the hot summer months, where the cake will turn rancid quickly, but it is great during the winter months when it will maintain its freshness and shape.

#### Bluebirds

I received an email from an Oakham resident. He said, "I've lived her by Dean Pond for more than 35 years and have never, ever seen a bluebird in my yard, but today (Feb. 13), three male bluebirds were at my suet feeder." He also said, "I've had a bluebird house in my yard for years and the only occupants I can remember were flying squirrels."

People may report a bird sighting or bird related experience by calling me at 413-967-3505, leaving a message at extension 100, emailing mybackyard88@aol.com or edowner@turley.com or mailing to Barre Gazette, P.O. Box 448, Barre, MA 01005.



## Milk jug seed starting part 2

This week we will delve into part 2 of the great milk jug seed starting experiment, posed by Barbara who wrote in last week wondering if I have had any success with this trendy technique.

Here are the nuts and bolts! Start with clean gallon containers, the see-through kind that water or milk come in. About four inches up, just below the handle, safely cut around the jug, leaving an inch or so on either side of the handle as a "hinge."

You should be able to bend the top back and forth. Make a number of drainage holes in the bottom; three or four per quadrant. There is a lot of advice out there on how to do that, from drilling holes, to twisting an exacto knife around and around and even using a hot tool to melt a hole in the plastic (really!). I generally like to make holes in reused plastic containers by banging a large nail through the bottom into a piece of scrap lumber placed underneath.

Once the drainage holes are made, fill the bottom of the jug with moist seed starting mix. 'Coast of Maine' has recently become my favorite after a few years of trying out new brands. With the soil in place, sow your seeds. If the seeds are tiny or even relatively tiny, don't cover them with soil, simply space them out evenly on top and press into the surface.

You may wonder how to deal with tiny seed. I place it in a folded index card and gently tap the card so that the seeds fly out. If you can handle the seed easily, do cover with only a small amount soil, say an eighth of an inch or so and firm down. How many seeds to sow is a tricky question. If you want to keep the plants in the jug until they go in the garden, then hope for four plants, maybe six per jug at the most, figuring how big they will be at transplant stage. For tricky germinators, perhaps double or triple the amount of seed you sow versus how many you desire. If germination is great, you can always transplant some out. Close the container and seal it with duct tape. Be sure to label the jug with the plant

name via a paint pen, really the only writing utensil that won't smear, fade or wash away when exposed to the elements.

Place the jugs in full exposure outdoors and with the cap off, so that heat can escape and small amounts of moisture can penetrate. When the temperature outdoors heats up past 60 degrees, be sure to take the duct tape off and vent your seedlings.

Check often and water as needed. The pros recommend to cover with a blanket if frost threatens or even move heat lovers inside on cold nights. To prevent tip-over by four-legged friends or playful kids, pros also suggest putting the jugs in trays or bins.

As you can see, this method is not maintenance-free, but certainly worthy of a try especially for gardeners who are short on indoor space or in the mood to get their hands dirty earlier in the season than normal. January and February is the perfect time to start seeds that need a cold treatment. Look for key terms on the seed packet, such as "stratification needed," "sow in the fall," or other terms.

You can begin to sow cold hardy annuals in March- think chard, spinach, kale, snapdragons, bachelor button and the like, while April should be reserved for warmth-lovers like pepper, tomato, basil, zinnias and marigolds, paying special attention to frost predictions and bringing these plants in as needed.

Well Barbara, thank you for the great topic! I promise to give this method a try and will report back my successes and failures.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For the last 28 years, she has held the position of staff horticulturalist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to [ekennedy@turley.com](mailto:ekennedy@turley.com) with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.

#### ON THE GARDEN



Roberta McQuaid

## Free COVID-19 testing at HCC extended until March 31

**HOLYOKE** — Free "Stop the Spread" COVID-19 testing at Holyoke Community College has been extended until March 31, 2021, according to the Holyoke Board of Health.

Drive-through testing at HCC is conducted six days a week in parking lot H near the western entrance to the Donahue Building on the college's main campus, 303 Homestead Ave.

HCC has been serving as a "Stop the Spread" drive-through testing site since Aug. 26 to help reduce the spread of COVID-19.

Drivers are asked to enter the campus from Homestead Avenue, turn left onto the Campus Road and proceed to parking lot H. There will be signs and parking attendants on site to manage the flow of traffic.

The HCC testing site is open Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday from 7 a.m. to 11 a.m.; and Tuesday and Thursday from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Testing is free to all Massachusetts residents, and conducted on a first come, first serve basis. There are no appointments and no referral is necessary. Turnaround time for results is typically four days or fewer.

More information on all of the Stop the Spread test sites across the state can be found at: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/stop-the-spread>

Please Note: Testing may sometimes be cancelled due to inclement weather. Be sure to visit the Holyoke Board of Health website for up-to-date information on cancellations: <https://www.holyoke.org/departments/board-of-health>



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## AGAWAM ADVERTISER NEWS

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# Agawam Public Library announces March activities

*Programs and activities for kids and teens:*

**Mar. 1 to 5**  
**Book Bundles For all ages**  
Are you stuck in a reading rut? Would you like to try some new authors, or learn something new?  
We will choose books for you based on your answers to some quick questions.  
Request a book bundle by going to: <https://bit.ly/38FtSMT>

**March Madness: Disney Trivia For individuals and families**  
Test your knowledge of Disney Movie Trivia with a fun trivia game using Kahoot. This program is ideal for individuals in grade 5 and older or families who work together.  
Monday, Mar. 1 at 7 p.m. Registration is required.  
Participants will view the questions in a Zoom format and will need a second device to use to submit their answers.  
The winners will get a small prize, and bragging rights.

**Mar. 8 to 12**  
**Book bundles For all ages**  
Are you stuck in a reading rut? Would you like to try some new authors, or learn something new?  
We will choose books for you based on your answers to some quick questions.  
Request a book bundle by going to: <https://bit.ly/38FtSMT>

**Krafty Kids: Glittery Pot of Gold Craft Kit For ages 3-5**  
Preschool children can make a make their own pot of gold and can hang it up as part of their home décor for good luck.  
Limited supplies of this craft will be available beginning Mar. 8 by calling 413-789-1550 ext. 3.

**Krafty Kids: Shamrock String Art For grades 1-4**  
Make Shamrock string art! Once completed, you will have a seasonal accent you

can hang in your room as bedroom décor on the luckiest day of the year.  
Limited supplies of this craft will be available beginning Mar. 8 by calling 413-789-1550 ext. 3.

**Krafty Kids: Luck of the Irish Bracelet For grades 5-12**  
Make a lucky Irish bracelet to keep for yourself or to give as a gift. This shamrock accessory is a fun addition to jewelry supplies and will complete just about any outfit on St. Patrick's Day.  
Limited supplies of this craft will be available beginning Mar. 8 by calling 413-789-1550 ext. 3.

**March Madness: BINGO For individuals and families**  
Come play a fun game of BINGO. This program is ideal for individuals in grade 5 and older or families who work together.  
Monday, Mar. 8 at 7 p.m. Registration is required.  
Participants will participate in a Zoom format to hear the numbers called and will need a second device to use to mark their online BINGO cards.  
The winners will get a small prize, and bragging rights.

**Spring Decorating Contest For kids of all ages**  
Collect spring decorating supplies beginning on Mar. 8.  
Make a spring creation, send us a picture of your finished project before Mar. 26, at [Agawamchildrenslibrary@gmail.com](mailto:Agawamchildrenslibrary@gmail.com) for a chance to win a small prize!  
Winners in four age groups, pre-K, K-4, 5-8 and 9-12 will be announced on Mar. 29.  
Stay-at-home Storytime For ages 3-5  
Let's explore dinosaurs! Miss Susan will share some dinosaur stories and a simple craft on video beginning on Mar. 8.  
The video will be posted at <https://www.agawamlibrary.org/children/> starting Mar. 8.  
Limited supplies of the craft will be available beginning Mar. 8 by calling 413-789-1550 ext. 3.

**Mar. 15 to 19**  
**Book Bundles For all ages**  
Are you stuck in a reading rut? Would you like to try some new authors, or learn something new?  
We will choose books for you based on your answers to some quick questions.  
Request a book bundle by going to: <https://bit.ly/38FtSMT>

**Songs & Signs – For babies & their caregivers**  
Enjoy a short video of Ms. Pamela singing songs and teaching some basic sign language for babies and their caregivers.  
The video will be posted at <https://www.agawamlibrary.org/children/> on Mar. 15.

**Mar. 22 to 26**  
**Book bundles For all ages**  
Are you stuck in a reading rut? Would you like to try some new authors, or learn something new?  
We will choose books for you based on your answers to some quick questions.  
Request a book bundle by going to: <https://bit.ly/38FtSMT>

**Krafty Kids: 3D Rainbow Fun For ages 3-5**  
Children in preschool can follow Ms. Rose as she takes you through the steps to make a colorful rainbow craft.  
The video will be posted at <https://www.agawamlibrary.org/children/> on Mar. 22.  
Limited supplies of the craft will be available beginning Mar. 22 by calling 413-789-1550 ext. 3.

**Krafty Kids: 3D Paper Flowers For grades 1-4**  
Students in grades 1-4 can follow Ms. Susan as she takes you through the steps to make simple 3D paper flowers for spring.  
The video will be posted at <https://www.agawamlibrary.org/children/> on Mar. 22.  
Limited supplies of the craft will be available beginning Mar. 22 by calling 413-789-1550 ext. 3.

**Krafty Kids: Paper Hyacinth Flower For grades 5-12**  
Students in grades 5 to 12 can follow Ms. Pamela as she takes you through the steps to make hyacinth paper flowers for spring.  
The video will be posted at <https://www.agawamlibrary.org/children/> on Mar. 22.  
Limited supplies of the craft will be available beginning Mar. 22 by calling 413-789-1550 ext. 3.

**March Madness: Scattergories For individuals and families**  
Come play a fun game of Scattergories. This program is ideal for individuals in grade 5 and older or families who work together.  
Monday, Mar. 22 at 7 p.m. Registration is required.  
The winners will get a small prize, and bragging rights.

**Mar. 29 to Apr 2**  
**Book bundles – For all ages**  
Are you stuck in a reading rut? Would you like to try some new authors, or learn something new?  
We will choose books for you based on your answers to some quick questions.  
Request a book bundle by going to: <https://bit.ly/38FtSMT>

**March Madness: Famous people trivia For individuals and families**  
Test your knowledge of Famous People Trivia with a fun trivia game using Kahoot. This program is ideal for individuals in grade 5 and older or families who work together.  
Monday, Mar. 29 at 7 p.m. Registration is required.

Participants will view the questions in a Zoom format and will need a second device to use to submit their answers.  
The winners will get a small prize, and bragging rights.

## Gift shop open limited hours

AGAWAM – The Vine and Branches Gift Shop will continue to be open on Tuesday and Thursday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Saturday from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. We would like to thank everyone for their patronage during these difficult times and we

will continue to pray for health, peace and strength as we all journey through 2021 together. You may contact our Pastoral Minister Deb Briancesco RN at 413-786-8200 ext.3 with any questions or concerns.

## Nominations sought for region's oldest community service award

SPRINGFIELD – The Advertising Club of Western Massachusetts is seeking nominations from throughout Hampden, Hampshire, Franklin and Berkshire counties for the Pynchon Award, which recognizes those citizens of our region who have rendered distinguished service to the community.  
The Order of William Pynchon was established by the Advertising Club in 1915 to recognize and encourage individuals whose lives and achievements typified the ideals of promoting citizenship and the building of a better community in western Massachusetts. Past recipients include war heroes, social activists, teachers, volunteers, philanthropists, historians, clergy, physicians, journalists, public servants, and business leaders — a diverse group; each with a passion for our region and a selfless streak. A complete list of recipients since 1915 can be found at <http://www.adclubwm.org/events/pynchonaward>.  
To nominate an individual, please submit a one-page letter explaining why the nominee should be considered. Please include biographical information, outstanding accomplishments, examples of service to the community, organizations he or she is or has been active in, and the names, phone numbers and e-mail addresses of at least three people who can further attest to the nominee's eligibility for induction into the Order of William Pynchon. The Pynchon Trustees respectfully reserve the right to eliminate nominations from consider-

ation due to insufficient information.  
Qualifying nominees will be considered and researched by the Pynchon Trustees, composed of the current and five past presidents of the Advertising Club. Nominations must be submitted by March 19, 2021 to: William Pynchon Trustees, Advertising Club of Western Massachusetts, P.O. Box 1022, West Springfield, MA 01090-1022 or by e-mail to [info@adclubwm.org](mailto:info@adclubwm.org).  
Pynchon medalists are chosen by unanimous decision of the Pynchon Trustees. 2021 recipients will be announced in June of this year, with an awards ceremony tentatively scheduled for the fall of 2021. Recipients are presented with a bronze medal cast with the name and likeness of Springfield's founder, William Pynchon, and bearing the inscription: "They honor us whom we honor." The Advertising Club of Western Massachusetts is the premier organization for all marketing and communications professionals in western Massachusetts and northern Connecticut. The club offers its members the ability to advance and enrich the advertising community, by acting as a catalyst for idea exchange, professional development and creative energy. The club offers its members a forum to learn, network, recognize achievement and give back to build a stronger advertising and marketing community. Learn more at [adclubwm.org](http://adclubwm.org).  
For more information, go online to [adclubwm.org](http://adclubwm.org).

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**CLUES ACROSS**

1. Ancient Persian city

5. Spindles

11. Stake

12. Retrain

16. Close by

17. Commercial

18. One who publicly announces

19. American ballplayer

24. Junior's father

25. Go up or climb

26. Concern

27. When you hope to get there

28. Iacocca and Oswald are two

29. Plant of the lily family

30. Male college organization

31. National capital

33. Raccoonlike animal

34. Symbols of fertility

38. Astronomy unit

39. Series of ridges in anatomy

40. Hebrew leader

43. A portent of good or evil

44. Supreme goddess

45. Gelatinous substance

49. Engage in a contest

50. Famed ballplayer Ruth

51. Pledge

53. - \_\_, denotes past

54. Revival

56. Spanish surname

58. Gold

59. Elsa's sister

60. Workplace

63. Large quantity of something

64. Engraved

65. Discount

**CLUES DOWN**

1. Shoe

2. Disquiet

3. Posture

4. Large nests

5. Soviet "Second Symphony" composer

6. Joins two pipes of different diameter

7. Exist

8. Overdose

9. Pleat of fabric

10. Predict the future

13. Burgeoning technology

14. Having made a valid will

15. Having no fixed course

20. \_\_ route

21. Lethal dose

22. Indian musical pattern of notes

23. Athlete

27. Geological times

29. Atomic #21

30. In support of

31. Brew

32. Certificate of insurance

33. Taxi

34. Type of saying

35. For cigars

36. Phil \_\_, former CIA

37. Local area network

38. Gym class

40. Philippine Island

41. Not great or bad

42. Eastern part of NY state

44. Gov't lawyers

45. Constructions

46. Former British gold coin

47. Unkeyed

48. Rechristen

50. Threaten persistently

51. Southeast

52. Cools your home

54. Removes the leaves

55. Regretted

57. Thus

61. Relief organization (abbr.)

62. Exclamation of surprise



# Drive-thru entertainment



AGAWAM – Agawam Congregational Church's Valentine's Dinner became a drive-thru event on Friday, Feb. 12. Included in the drive-thru "experience" was entertainment from singer Joe Saimeri.

From left Debra Pond and Roberta Page from Agawam Congregational Church wait for cars while Joe Saimeri sings classic songs. PHOTOS BY SHELBY MACRI



Debra Pond collects tickets and announced the number of meals needed.



From left; Dave Christian hands out meals with Debra Pond collects tickets.



From left; Joe Saimeri sings while Roberta Page listens and monitors the drive through



From left; Roberta Page, Debra Pond, and Ray Pond greet guests while handing out the Valentine's Day suppers

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Debra Pond and Roberta Page tell the number of meals needed while Joe Saimeri sings for those in line.



# Schools & Youth

## Agawam High School Counseling Bulletin

**Reminders:**

Scheduling for the 2021-2022 school year is just around the corner! Students should be on the lookout for an email that was sent to their APS account. We are excited to move this process fully online this year!

All students should be checking their Naviance accounts on a regular basis. There is so much valuable information for all students, whether you're headed directly into the work force, the military, or college upon graduation from AHS. If you can't access your account, please be in touch with your School Counselor.

**Open Houses/Informational Sessions/Discovery Days:**

Student registration is now open for the NEACAC Spring College Fairs, which will be held on the following dates and times: Sunday, March 14 from 1 to 3 p.m.; Wednesday, April 14 from 7 to 8:30 p.m., and Sunday, May 16 from 1 to 3 p.m. To date, there are over 170 colleges that are registered to participate in the program. Registration for students and school counselors is required, but free of charge. Please visit: [neacac.swoogo.com/NEACACVirtual\\_Spring](http://neacac.swoogo.com/NEACACVirtual_Spring) to register.

The National Association of College Admission Counseling will be hosting Focus Fairs designed especially for students with special interests or residing in specific regions: STEM (March 7), Performing & Visual Arts (March 16), Western US (April 10), and Southeastern US (April 20). Students may register at [virtualcollegefairs.org](http://virtualcollegefairs.org)

Whether you've already started your college search or have no idea where to begin, BigFuture Days will give you a chance to get information about multiple colleges from college admissions officers and current college students. The program for the Northeast will be held on Sunday, March 7. Please visit [cb.org/bigfuturedays](http://cb.org/bigfuturedays) to register.

Colleges and universities will be hosting information and recruitment events, in a variety of formats, in the next couple of months. Check the colleges' websites for more information and to confirm the date and time of the event. While campus visits may look and feel different during this time, it is important to take advantage of these

programs to learn as much as you can about the schools that are of interest to you.

**Scholarship Information:**

See your counselor or visit the websites below for more information or an application.

The Department of Higher Education (in partnership with EOHHS and the Unaccompanied Homeless Youth Commission) will be offering the Moving to College Housing Scholarship. This scholarship will include year-round, on-campus housing, a meal plan and case management (it does NOT cover the cost of tuition, books or transportation) for students who enroll in a full-time in a degree-seeking program at one of the participating colleges: Berkshire Community College, Mass College of Liberal Arts, Massachusetts Bay Community College, Framingham State University, Mt. Wachusett Community College, Fitchburg State University, North Shore Community College and Salem State University. To be eligible, students must have experienced unaccompanied youth homelessness, be a US citizen or permanent resident/green card holder, and meet income limits. More information and the application can be found here: [doe.mass.edu/sfs/edstability/mtc.html](http://doe.mass.edu/sfs/edstability/mtc.html). Please note that applications are due by March 1.

The William R. Rooney Scholarship is available to residents of Hampden County who are members of the senior class and have been on an IEP or 504 Plan for two years. Please visit [horacesmithfund.org](http://horacesmithfund.org) for an application. The application deadline is March 15.

The Walter S. Barr Scholarship is available to residents to Hampden County who are members of the senior class at their local public or private secondary schools. Awards will be made on the basis of all available information, including school records, recommendations and examination scores. Awards will be continued through the four year course if the student's record and need justify such continuance. Consideration will be given to both the merit and financial need of the applicant. Please see [horacesmithfund.org](http://horacesmithfund.org) for details. The appli-

cation deadline is March 15.

The Professional Women in Construction (PWC) – CT Chapter is pleased to offer multiple scholarships to students (male or female) enrolled in undergraduate or graduate degree programs in Construction, Construction Management, Interior Design, Architecture, Landscape Design, or Civil, Mechanical, Structural, and Electrical Engineering. The students must be enrolled full-time for the complete year. The application is available at [pwcusa.org/chapters/about-connecticut/connecticut-scholarship/](http://pwcusa.org/chapters/about-connecticut/connecticut-scholarship/) and is due no later than March 17.

Seniors who attended the James Clark School (two-year minimum) are encouraged to apply for the James Clark PTO Scholarship. Applications are available in Naviance and are due no later than March 29.

The Rebekah Assembly of Massachusetts is offering a scholarship of \$1000 to qualified seniors who plan to further their education by attending a two or four-year college program. Applications are available in Naviance and are due by March 30.

The Agawam Municipal Scholarship is available to graduating high school seniors or any persons pursuing their education beyond secondary school. The committee shall take into consideration each recipient's financial need, character, scholastic record, and involvement in school and community. The applications deadline is March 31.

Western Massachusetts seniors who plan to attend an accredited college or technical school to study advertising, communications, marketing or graphics arts and will be attending in September 2021 are encouraged to apply for the scholarship offered by The Advertising Club of Western Massachusetts. Applications are available at [adclubwm.org](http://adclubwm.org) and must be postmarked on or before March 31. The scholarship must be applied against tuition and fees at the school. Candidates will be judged on academic performance, extracurricular activities, community service and/or work experience, a demonstrated interest in advertising, communications, marketing or graphic design, personal recommendations, and a letter of introduction outlining future

plans. More information is available at [adclubwm.org](http://adclubwm.org)

The Pascal A. Deliso Scholarship is offered to students with distinguished academic ability, regular involvement in community service, commitment to the Roman Catholic faith, one parent of Italian descent, and have an acceptance to an accredited two- or four-year college or university. Applications are available in Naviance and must be submitted by April 1.

### Hartford announces Dean's List

WEST HARTFORD, Conn. – The University of Hartford is pleased to announce the following students have been named to the Dean's List for Fall 2020.

Brianna Benjamin of Agawam  
Emily Fountain of Feeding Hills  
Gabriella Harrison of Agawam  
Alexandra Humphries of Agawam  
Kristen Langevin of Feeding Hills  
Elizabeth Milliken of Agawam  
Kaitlyn Ravizza of Agawam  
Giovanna Recchia of Feeding Hills  
Mara Winer of Agawam

### Wesley makes Villanova Dean's List

AGAWAM – Mason Wesley, of Feeding Hills, has been name to the Fall 2020 Dean's List at Villanova University in PA. Mason is a 2020 graduate of Agawam High School and is in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. Inclusion on this list recognizes a student's commitment to an intellectually rigorous education in the liberal arts and sciences, one that fosters critical insight, mature judgment, and independent thinking. Students must complete at least 12 credits of letter grade courses each semester with a minimum GPA of 3.50.



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# SPORTS

## SWIMMING

### Girls swimming wades through short season



Elin Michelaskis extends her arms in her leg of the 200 medley relay.



Gabriella Gebo takes her turn in the relay.



Gabrielle Rueli competes in the 200 individual medley.



Hannah Newsome comes above the water near the end of the 200 medley relay.

AGAWAM – The Agawam High School girls swimming team has enjoyed the opportunity to compete in the pool at Agawam Junior High School, if only for a few short weeks. The Brownies were set to conclude the season earlier this week. They have gone 0-4 so far in four virtual meets, their most recent meet against East Longmeadow on Feb. 8, a 118-63 defeat.



Mia Dilullo makes her dive attempt. PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM

## RACING

### Outlaw open entry lists loading up for Icebreaker, Thompson 300

THOMPSON, Conn. — The Thompson Speedway Motor-sports Park oval is shaping up as the place to watch the biggest stars of Tour-Type Modified Racing in 2021. Entry lists for both the Icebreaker 125 on April 10/11 and the return of the Thompson 300 on October 9/10 are already loaded with local, regional, and even national open-wheel racing headliners.

As the first and last events of the season at the historic Connecticut track, both the Icebreaker and the Thompson 300 are ex-



Tom Morris racing is back this season. SUBMITTED PHOTO

## FOOTBALL

### Football rules set for 2021

By Gregory A. Scibelli  
gscibelli@turley.com

REGION – While the vaccination effort is ongoing, there is still a need to make modifications to high school sports and football will be no different.

High school football games are finally set to commence next month and those that are able to watch games will not see a major difference in how the games are played other than what happens behind the scenes and on the sidelines.

Like all sports currently, football players will be required to wear face coverings. In the last couple of months, variants of COVID-19 coming from the United Kingdom and South Africa have resulted in a more contagious mutations of the virus. As a result, people have been advised to wear multiple or multi-layer face coverings now. The MIAA is not allowing gaiter face coverings, but are not currently requiring the multi-layer coverings. Football players wear full helmets



# Sports

## Follow Turley Sports on Instagram

Turley Publications sports department has recently joined Instagram. You can find our account by searching “turleysports.” We will regularly feature samples of photos that you will see in our publications on a weekly basis. Please follow and share with your friends and loved ones. We will be featuring photos from all 11 of our sports sections in the coming weeks, but as always, you can see all the photos that appear by subscribing to your local paper or picking up a copy in your community.

## Hampshire association seeking umpires

REGION – The Hampshire Franklin Baseball Umpire Association (HFBUA) is planning to conduct classes for the 2021 baseball season following all recommended COVID-19 protocols including the possibility of on-line instruction. The association covers umpiring of scholastic baseball for all of Hampshire and Franklin county schools registered under MIAA and several other baseball leagues in the area. If you are interested in umpiring baseball or obtaining further information regarding the upcoming classes please contact Roger Booth - Secretary/Treasurer of the HFBUA via email at [quilthunter@comcast.net](mailto:quilthunter@comcast.net).



Bobby Santos will look to compete in the upcoming Icebreaker race. SUBMITTED PHOTO

### RACING ■ from page 8

pected to be the year's two greatest shows. The early entries back up these expectations with a mix of touring series champions, track champions, and big-time winners in the Modified ranks. With so many top drivers ready for action, the buzz that has surrounded the events for months will only get louder.

Leading the roll call is six-time NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour champion Doug Coby of Milford, CT. The modern Modified legend has filed entries for both the \$10,000-to-win Icebreaker 125 and the \$20,000-to-win Thompson 300. Coby will compete at the Icebreaker in the #20CT Modified Rick Czarnecki. For the Thompson 300, he will be behind the wheel of his own Doug Coby Racing #10CT car that debuted in 2020.

Coby is one of multiple drivers planning to do double-duty with the Icebreaker and the NASCAR Modified Tour event at Virginia's Martinsville Speedway on April 8. Another is multi-time NASCAR Modified and Modified Racing Series (MRS) winner Eric Goodale of Riverhead, NY. Goodale, who is currently competing in the World Series of Asphalt Stock Car Racing at Florida's New Smyrna Speedway, is looking forward to keeping the Thompson Modified tradition alive.

"I love racing at Thompson," Goodale said. "It's one of my favorite tracks. I'm excited to do it. The thought to go into a Modified season and not have a Modified race at Thompson would be a bit disturbing. This is the stuff I grew up on, and I'm finally getting to live it everyday. I'll be leaving Martinsville, heading home, switching the car over and heading right to Thompson for a double-header weekend."

Several other notable names have already joined Coby in committing early to both the Icebreaker 125 and Thompson 300. Multi-time Thompson Speedway champion and former NASCAR Weekly Racing Series national champion Keith Rocco of Berlin, CT will be gunning for the two five-figure first prizes in his familiar #57CT. So will former Modified Racing Series (MRS) and International Supermodified Association (ISMA) champion Jonathan McKennedy of Chelmsford, MA. Others who beat the crowd with their entries include 2011 NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour champion Ron Silk, two-time MRS champion Chris Pasteryak, and recent MRS winner Ronnie Williams.

The Icebreaker entry list alone, mean-

while, is nearing two dozen names with two months still to go before the event. One driver that everyone will have their eyes on is Franklin, MA's Bobby Santos III. Santos has become the dean of big-money open-wheel events in recent years, winning everything from the Musket 250 at New Hampshire Motor Speedway to the Little 500 at Indiana's Anderson Speedway. At the Icebreaker 125, Santos will be in the cockpit of the #44MA Tinio Racing car he has piloted to 11 NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour victories.

Other high-profile names preparing for the Icebreaker 125 are MRS champion Anthony Nocella, recent World Series Modified Open winner Mike Christopher Jr., many-time Modified winner Richard Savary, and former Pro-4 Modified standout Derek Robbie. While their Thompson plans remain to be seen beyond the Icebreaker, a good start could certainly spur them to attend more of the planned big-money events.

The Icebreaker 125 is the opener of the new Thompson Outlaw Open Modified Series for 2021. The six-race series includes the annual Icebreaker, the Thompson 300 as part of the World Series of Speedway Racing, and four Wednesday night events held between June and September. The Wednesday events will pay a minimum of \$5,000 to win; meanwhile, the Icebreaker and Thompson 300 have guaranteed top prizes of \$10,000 and \$20,000, respectively. All told, more than \$250,000 in purse money will be posted at these six races.

The Icebreaker 125 and Thompson 300 entry forms, along with the rules for the Outlaw Open Modified Series, have been posted at [www.acttour.com/outlaw-open-modifieds](http://www.acttour.com/outlaw-open-modifieds) (link is external). The early-entry deadlines are March 15 for the Icebreaker 125 and April 15 for the Thompson 300. More information about the series will be released throughout the season.

Thompson Speedway opens its 82nd season with the 46th Icebreaker on Saturday, April 10 and Sunday, April 11. The Icebreaker 125 is part of a nine-division that also includes all of Thompson's local divisions plus the Pro All Stars Series Super Late Models, NEMA Lites, and EXIT Realty Pro Truck Challenge.

The full event schedule and ticketing info will be announced in the coming weeks. All local and state health and safety guidelines are in effect.

## MIAA official recognized for leadership by NFHS

FRANKLIN – The National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) selected eight leaders in state high school associations to receive an NFHS Citation. This award honors individuals who have made contributions to the NFHS, state high school associations, athletic director and coaching professions, the officiating avocation and fine arts/performing arts programs. The NFHS Citation is one of the most prestigious achievements in high school athletics and performing arts.

The Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association (MIAA) is extremely proud to announce the NFHS 2021 Section 1 Citation recipient:

Sherry Bryant, associate executive director of the MIAA.

During her 30-year career at the Associations, Bryant has served as Financial Controller, Director of Human Resources, Technology Advancement Leader, and Liaison to a number of sport Committees including, Field Hockey, Basketball, Gymnastics, Skiing, Tennis, Softball, and co-liaison for Rugby. Bryant has also provided leadership through her service to the MIAA Tournament Management Committee, MIAA Blue Ribbon Committee on Gender Equity, the MIAA Covid-19 Task Force, and MIAA

Women and Girls Leadership initiatives. At the national level, she has served two terms on the NFHS Field Hockey Committee most recently as chair, is a leader in the NFHS/USA Field Hockey Advocacy Group, and has been appointed to the NFHS Strategic Planning Committee.

MIAA member, Field Hockey Committee Chair, Coach and retired Rockport High School Athletic Director Mary Ryan stated, "Sherry is hands-down the ultimate professional and so deserving of the NFHS Section 1 Citation. Her commitment, dedication and tireless work ethic on the local, state and national levels on behalf of our student-athletes, athletic directors and coaches is beyond reproach. I have the utmost respect and admiration for all that she does in the quest of Educational Athletics. I have been so fortunate to call her my colleague and friend."

According to MIAA Executive Director Bill Gaine, "Sherry Bryant's 30-year service to the MIAA membership as well as being a key Senior Executive teammate has been outstanding. I am very pleased her contributions to our NFHS Section 1 colleagues and NFHS Association have been recognized and will be celebrated."

## Nominees for volleyball hall announced

HOLYOKE – The list of 25 nominees for the International Volleyball Hall of Fame 2021 Induction has been announced and the Fan Vote presented by Mizuno is now officially open through Feb. 28.

Fans can vote daily for as many nominees as they feel are deserving of Induction. The top 5 nominees selected by the public will comprise a "fans' ballot" that will be tallied along with the official selection committee ballots to pick the Class of 2021 inductees. "These 25 nominees represent 11 different countries and some of the biggest names in volleyball from the past two decades and beyond," said George Mulry, Executive Director of the International Volleyball Hall of Fame. "Having to skip the 2020 class of Inductees because of COVID has created a bit of a backlog that's resulted in perhaps the strongest list of nominees top to bottom we've ever had. I think it's going to be really hard for people to nar-

row down their Fan Vote selections but it will also make this year's Induction that much more special for the selected class." The new class of Inductees will be announced in March and the 2021 Induction Celebration is scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 23 and will be live streamed for anyone that cannot travel to Holyoke. Induction Celebration tickets will go on sale when the new class is announced.

The nominees are: Taismary Agüero, Dr. Rolf Andresen, Manuela Benelli, Gianfranco Briani, Julius Brink and Jonas Reckermann, Dr. Gabriel Cherebetiu, Sergio Dutra Santos, Giovane Gavio, Linda Hanley, Barbara Jelic-Ruzic, Pieter Joon, Siegfried Kohler, Peter Lange, Andre Meyer, Samuele Papi, Carmelo Pittera, Bernardo Rezende, Todd Rogers, Yumilka Ruiz, Ricardo Santos, Clay Stanley, Sergey Tetyukhin, Logan Tom, Fernanda Venturini, and Elaine Youngs.

### FOOTBALL ■ from page 8

with some also wearing splash guards. The guards are being encouraged as they provide an additional layer of protection.

Larger teams like Longmeadow, Central, and Holyoke will have limits to the number of players they can bring to the sideline. A maximum of just 45 players will be allowed to dress for games and be on the sidelines.

In many high school games, players are injured and unable to play, often wear their jerseys to the field and are on the sidelines to cheer on teammates. Those players will not be allowed in the Fall 2 season in order to limit the number of people on the sidelines of games. Only 45 players and a maximum of six coaches will be allowed on the sidelines along with other game personnel, like officials, the chain gang, and athletic trainers.

The 45 players on the sideline will be required to have face coverings at all time and must be socially distant from one another.

The coin toss, which usually features multiple captains going to midfield, will only feature one player from coach team and the referee.

During games, when the action gets intense, players and coaches will often crowd the sideline. This will not be allowed and

will be strictly enforced. Referees are being instructed to assess penalties if warnings to be at least two yards away from the sideline are not adhered to.

There will be more time to account for the need for players to have water breaks and catch their breath. Timeouts are extended to two minutes long. Intermissions between quarters will also be longer. Water breaks will also be instituted around the six-minute mark of each quarter, though referees can declare a water break around that time during a change of possession.

A schedule for the football season has yet to be released, though it has already been determined there will be no tournament. The same has applied to the fall and winter seasons.

A few athletic directors have already said traditional Friday night football is unlikely to occur during the Fall 2 season due to the colder temperatures. Right now, nighttime temperatures are consistently in the 30's, unlike the normal fall season where it is still much warmer until November.

Thursday, Friday, and Saturday afternoon games are likely in order for players to be able to play some of the games in the sun and slightly warmer temperatures. The Fall 2 season will be continuing into April.

Find us online: [www.sports.turley.com](http://www.sports.turley.com)



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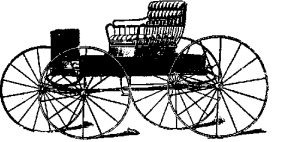
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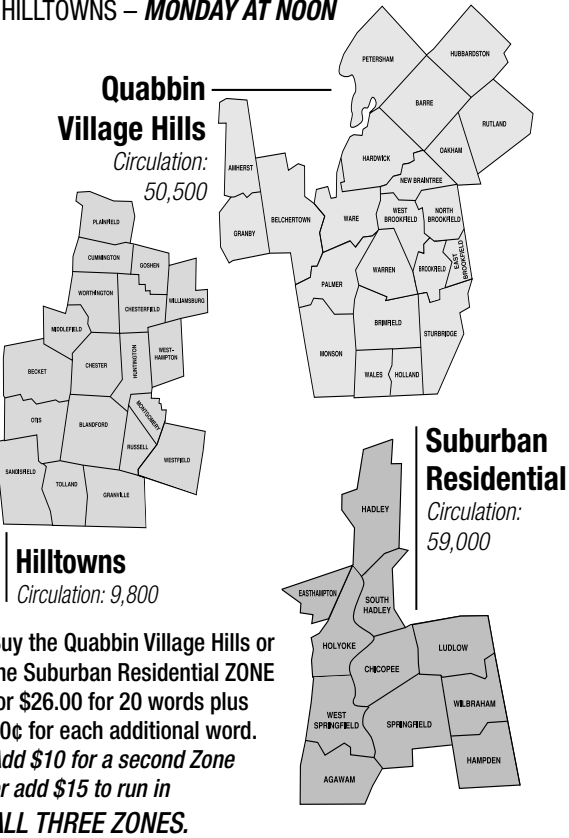
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# Public Notices

## COMMUNITY OUTREACH MEETING

Notice is hereby given that Debilitating Medical Condition Treatment Centers, Inc. (DMC) will hold a web-based Community Outreach Meeting on March 12, 2021 at 6:00 P.M. via Zoom to discuss the proposed siting of a Marijuana Product Manufacturing Facility.

DMC intends to apply for a license to operate as a Marijuana Product Manufacturer to be located at 584 Meadow St. Ext., Agawam, MA 01001 in accordance with M.G.L. ch. 94G and the Massachusetts Cannabis Control Commission's regulations at 935 CMR 500.000 et seq.

Topics to be discussed at the meeting will include, but not be limited to:

1. The type of Adult-Use Marijuana Establishment to be located at the proposed address;
2. Plans for maintaining a secure facility;
3. Plans to prevent diversion to minors;

4. Plans to positively impact the community; and
5. Plans to ensure the establishment will not constitute a nuisance to the community.

Interested members of the community are encouraged to ask questions in advance and receive answers from DMC's representatives about the proposed facility and operations. A question and answer session will also take place after the presentation.

To join the zoom meeting simply type the link below into any web browser:

<http://bit.ly/2ZCLRxQ>

For those who have the Zoom app click the Join button on the home page and type in the meeting ID number:

Meeting ID: 823 1153 4700

Meeting materials will be posted at <http://bit.ly/3dntnti> no later than 24 hours in advance of the scheduled meeting.

John Hanmer  
COO – DMC  
[johnh@dmcmass.com](mailto:johnh@dmcmass.com)  
02/25/2021

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Hampden Probate and Family Court  
50 State Street  
Springfield, MA 01103  
(413)748-7758  
Docket No. HD21P0258EA  
Estate of:  
David Michael Jaskulski  
Date of Death: 12/15/2020  
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION**

To all interested persons:  
A Petition for Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Ryan M Jaskulski of Westfield MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **Ryan M Jaskulski** of Westfield MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond

in unsupervised administration

## IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of **03/17/2021**.

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

## UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administra-

tion is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.

Date: February 17, 2021  
**Rosemary A Saccomani**  
Register of Probate  
02/25/2021

## AGAWAM ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT LEGAL NOTICE

Date: February 5, 2021  
Notice is hereby given that the Agawam Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing via ZOOM on Monday, March 22, 2021 at 6:30PM for all parties interested in the appeal of Cellco Partnership, d/b/a Verizon Wireless, which

is seeking a Special Permit in accordance with the Town of Agawam's Zoning Ordinances, Chapter 180, Paragraphs 90 thru 103, (Article XIV) to allow for the installation of a Personal Wireless Service Facility at the premises identified as 128 Southwick Street; commonly known as the Agawam Golf Course.

Doreen A. Prouty Chairperson  
Zoning Board of Appeals  
Join Zoom Meeting  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83354499038?pwd=VFo1ZkZkz-VE5RSUNlbgFVNEFRZ210QT09>  
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## FOR RENT



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This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertising in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain about discrimination call The Department of Housing and Urban Development "HUD" toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. For the N.E. area, call HUD at 617-565-5308. The toll free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

## TAX SERVICES



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## Free tax assistance offered through VITA program

SPRINGFIELD – Springfield Partner for Community Action is gearing up for the annual free Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program (VITA). Income eligible taxpayers earning less than \$57,000 annually qualify and should call 413-263-6500 to schedule an appointment.

VITA volunteers assist low wage earners complete their 2020 federal and state income tax returns in addition to the earned income tax credits, child tax credit and education credits. Further making sure taxpayer claim and receive all state and federal tax benefits, including the Federal Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). EITC is a federal income tax benefit designed to assist working families. It has been

called the most significant federal program of lifting Americans out of poverty.

Paul F. Bailey, executive director, said, "although we are closed to the public, the agency continues to assist participants. "This year due to COVID-19 we are implementing a new system using a drop box method. Drop box will allow participants to safely drop-off all required tax documents in advance. Volunteer tax preparers will complete and follow up. Completed taxes will be mailed or we can arrange for pickups".

Springfield Partners also offer the Low-Income Taxpayer Clinic (LITC) designed to assist taxpayers having issues before the IRS and/or the State

Department of Revenue. If you've received a notice form either state or federal tax authority or if you need to file prior year taxes you should call Mary Ellen at 413-263-6500 ext. 6565 or Marty O'Connor at 413-263-6500 ext. 6566.

Springfield Partners is the official anti-poverty agency serving greater Springfield and parts of Western MA. We offer several programs and services including Eviction Clinic, Housing Counseling, Credit Counseling, Financial Literacy, Weatherization, Veterans Services, Emergency Fuel, New Beginnings Early Education & Care, COVID-19 Emergency Response, Scholarships and Telephone Reassurance.

## Eucharistic Adoration at St. John's

AGAWAM – All are welcome and invited to join us at St. John the Evangelist Church, 833 Main Street, for Eucharistic Adoration, Wednesdays, 12 noon to 5:45 p.m. with Holy Mass at 6:00 p.m. Come and spend some time in quiet prayer with our Lord Jesus Christ, present in the Eucharist.

## BusinessWest now accepting nominations for 40 Under Forty Class of 2020; nominations close Feb. 26

SPRINGFIELD — BusinessWest magazine is now accepting nominations for its 40 Under Forty class of 2021, and will accept them up to the Feb. 26 deadline.

Launched in 2007, the recognition program is a celebration of rising stars in the four counties of Western Mass. The process of selecting the region's 40 Under Forty begins with nominations.

The background materials submitted on a given individual are the primary source of information to be

weighed by a panel of five judges who will score the candidates.

Those at BusinessWest encourage submissions to be thorough, detailing the candidate's success in business, involvement in the community, and awards and designations. Supporting information (such as a résumé) may be sent to [godaire@businesswest.com](mailto:godaire@businesswest.com). Please include the nominee's name in the subject line.

Nominees must be under age 40 as of April 1, 2021. Nominations

can be submitted at [businesswest.com/40-under-forty-nomination-form](http://businesswest.com/40-under-forty-nomination-form). Only nominations submitted to BusinessWest through the on-line form will be considered.

The selected individuals will be profiled in the May 12 edition of BusinessWest and celebrated at the annual 40 Under Forty Gala on June 24.

For more information, call Jennifer Godaire, Marketing and Events director, at 413-781-8600, ext. 100, or e-mail [godaire@businesswest.com](mailto:godaire@businesswest.com).



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